

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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R 141730Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9558

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - SEABOARD OPERATIONS TO/FROM ITALY

1. LOCAL SEABOARD REP INFORMED EMBASSY FEB 12 THAT CIVILAVIA HAS INSTRUCTED SEABOARD TO OPERATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCHEDULE OR, FOR FLIGHTS DEVIATING THEREFROM, OBTAIN PRIOR PERMISSION. SEABOARD REP SAID SUCH A REQUIREMENT WOULD UNNECESSARILY RESTRICT SEABOARD OPERATIONS AND REQUESTED EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE.

2. PROBLEM ARISES BECAUSE SEABOARD OFTEN OPERATES AT HOURS MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THOSE LISTED ON SCHEDULES, HAS NOT ALWAYS INFORMED CIVILAVIA OF PERMANENT CHANGES IN ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE TIMES, AND SOMETIMES OPERATES OVER ROUTES OTHER THAN THOSE SCHEDULED. LOCAL SEABOARD REP HAS TOLD EMBOFF SEVERAL TIMES THAT HIS CRITERION IS "WITHIN 24 HOURS OF SCHEDULED TIME."

3. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SEABOARD PROBLEMS FEB 14 WITH CIVILAVIA REP LIOI (CHIEF, FOREIGN AIR TRANSPORT DIVISION, AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES). LIOI SAID CIVILAVIA BELIEVES SCHEDULED AIRLINES SHOULD MAKE REASONABLE EFFORT TO OPERATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCHEDULE. SCHEDULES DESCRIBE ROUTES AND OPERATING TIMES, BUT SEABOARD OBSERVES NEITHER. IF SEABOARD WISHES OPERATE AT TIMES SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE SHOWN ON SCHEDULE, OR OVER ANOTHER ROUTE ON ANY PARTICULAR DAY, CIVILAVIA WOULD GLADLY PROCESS SUCH A REQUEST. LIOI SAID SEABOARD WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER IT WISHES TO OPERATE AS A SCHEDULED OR A CHARTER
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AIRLINE IN ITS SERVICES TO/FROM MILAN AND PISA.

4. EMBOFF NOTED THAT WEATHER AND TECHNICAL PROBLEMS CAN CAUSE DELAYS IN ANY AIRLINE'S SERVICES. LIOI REPLIED THAT CIVILAVIA PREPARED TO BE QTE REASONABLE UNQTE RE ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE TIMES; HE PERSONALLY WOULD CONSIDER SIX HOURS "REASONABLE" BUT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS "UNREASONABLE". HE EXPECTS SEABOARD TO SEEK PRIOR CIVILAVIA PERMISSION WHENEVER REASONABLE DELAY IS EXCEEDED OR WHENEVER ALTERNATE ROUTE IS TO BE EMPLOYED.

5. COMMENT. EMBASSY BELIEVES CIVILAVIA HAS VALID POINT AND THAT SEABOARD HAS IN FACT BEEN TOO HAPHAZARD IN OBSERVING SCHEDULES. UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO LET THIS PROBLEM BE HANDLED DIRECTLY BETWEEN SEABOARD AND CIVILAVIA. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING SEABOARD'S US HEADQUARTERS ON NEED TO OBSERVE SCHEDULES; EMBASSY WILL MAKE SAME POINT WITH LOCAL SEABOARD REP IN MILAN AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. VOLPE

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